

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
John E. EBY et al.)
)
Continuation App. under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b))
of Appl. No.: 09/287,631)
)
Filed: December 28, 2000)
)
For: SURFACE COVERINGS HAVING)
A NATURAL APPEARANCE AND)
METHODS TO MAKE SURFACE)
COVERINGS HAVING A NATURAL)
APPEARANCE)

Prior Application:

Group Art Unit: 1732

Examiner: A. Kuhn

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application
as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-20 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add the following
new claims 21-32.

-- 21. A floor covering comprising:

a chemically embossed portion; and

a mechanically embossed portion having a mechanical emboss depth,

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22. The floor covering according to claim 21, wherein said chemically embossed portion is substantially free of mechanical embossments.

24. The floor covering according to claim 23, further comprising a design layer.

25. The floor covering of claim 23, wherein said wear layer comprises polyvinyl chloride.

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27. The floor covering of claim 26, wherein said inhibitor is tolyltriazole.
28. The floor covering of claim 21, further comprising a top coat.
29. The floor covering of claim 28, wherein said top coat comprises acrylated urethane.
30. The floor covering of claim 21, further comprising a strengthening layer.
31. The floor covering of claim 24, wherein a portion of said design layer comprises a non-retarder ink composition.
32. The floor covering of claim 24, wherein said mechanically embossed portion has a surface texture intended to provide a natural appearance and said design layer has a design intended to have a natural appearance. --

REMARKS


Claims 21-32 are pending in this application. Claims 1-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request formal examination of this application and allowance of the pending claims at the Examiner's convenience.

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Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
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Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 28, 2000

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